

Message Text

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41

ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 094084

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (PRINCE ABDALLAH BIN ABD AL AZIZ AL SAUD)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF PRINCE ABDALLAH TO THE UNITED STATES

REF: JIDDA 2646, 2057 AND 1379

1. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RUMSFELD SIGNED FOLLOWING LETTER
ADDRESSED TO PRINCE ABDALLAH ON APRIL 16 EXTENDING AN
INVITATION FOR HIM TO COME TO U.S. SIGNED ORIGINAL BEING
POUCHED TO PROGRAM MANAGER OF SAUDI NATIONAL GUARD BUT
EMBASSY SHOULD PROVIDE ADVANCE COPY TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS.
FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
PRINCE ABDALLAH BIN ABD AL-AZIZ AL-SA'UD
SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND
COMMANDER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD
RIYADH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

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YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS:

I AM MOST PLEASED TO EXTEND TO YOU AN INVITATION TO VISIT

THE UNITED STATES AS MY GUEST. I SUGGEST THAT A VISIT WHICH COMBINES MEETINGS WITH UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HERE IN WASHINGTON, PLUS TRIPS TO SOME OF OUR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY, WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. IN PARTICULAR, WE WOULD LIKE TO SHOW YOU SOME OF OUR TRAINING FACILITIES SUCH AS FORT BENNING, WHERE SOME OF YOUR NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS WILL BE RECEIVING TRAINING.

DEPENDING UPON YOUR SCHEDULE, I PROPOSE THAT YOUR WASHINGTON MEETINGS BE SCHEDULED DURING THE WEEK OF MAY 31-JUNE 4, 1976, WITH THE TRIPS TO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS OUTSIDE WASHINGTON SCHEDULED EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER THE WASHINGTON PORTION OF THE VISIT. IF YOU CAN ACCEPT THIS INVITATION, PLEASE INFORM BRIGADIER GENERAL LAWRENCE, PROJECT MANAGER OF THE SAUDI ARABIAN NATIONAL GUARD MODERNIZATION PROGRAM, WHO WILL CONVEY YOUR MESSAGE TO ME. WE WILL THEN PROVIDE YOU WITH SOME SUGGESTED ITINERARIES FOR YOUR VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES.

YOUR VISIT WOULD SERVE TO STRENGTHEN THE TRADITIONAL WARM RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES, AND BETWEEN THE SAUDI ARABIAN NATIONAL GUARD AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH YOU.

SINCERELY,

DONALD H. RUMSFELD

END TEXT. ROBINSON

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